

[0059] A second sub display device 36 is provided between the main display device 32 and the first sub display device 34. The second sub display device 36 is able to show a display similar to ornamental lights, such as flashing text or symbols, in accordance with the state of the game, or to display text information which scrolls from the right-hand side to the left-hand side of the display device.

[0060] An indication lamp 56 for indicating a fault in the game selection-enabled gaming machine 2 or a big winning, or the like, is provided on top of the cabinet 30.

[0061] A virtually horizontal operating panel 50 is provided below the main display device 32, and a plurality of switches 40, and a cross switch 42, are provided on the left-hand side of the panel 50. These switches 40 and 42 are used to perform instructions, such as selection and determination in the respective games.

[0062] Furthermore, a coin insertion slot 44 and a bill insertion slot 46 are provided on the right-hand side of the operating panel 50. A pay-out switch 48 is also provided in the vicinity of the coin insertion slot 44, and by pushing this switch 48, a number of coins corresponding to the remaining credit at that time is paid out via a coin pay-out opening 52 in the lower part of the front surface of the cabinet 30, and the coins thus paid out are collected in a coin tray 54.

[0063] In the foregoing description, both coins and bills are accepted when inserting money to be used as a unit gaming fee, and only coins are used when paying out the remaining credit, but it is also possible to use coins only for inserting and paying out, and it is also possible to use both coins and bills for inserting and paying out. Furthermore, it is also possible to enable various denominations of coins and bills to be handled. Moreover, instead of paying out coins, it is also possible to output a receipt on which the number of coins to be paid out is printed. In this case, the receipt is exchanged for coins, or the like, at an exchange site, for example.

[0064] A third sub display device 38 is provided in the lower part of the cabinet 30, above the coin pay-out opening 52, and this display device is able to display various types of information, such as information supplied by the casino where that gaming machine 2 is located, for example.

[0065] Furthermore, (apertures for) a pair of audio output speakers 80 are provided on the left and right-hand sides of the coin pay-out opening 52.

[0066] (Control composition of Game Selection-Enabled Gaming Machine)

[0067] FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing the composition of the control implemented in a game selection-enabled gaming machine 2 according to a first embodiment.

[0068] One or a plurality of circuit boards mounted with a main control circuit 60, which is a compositional element, as shown in FIG. 4, is/are provided inside the cabinet 30 of the game selection-enabled gaming machine 2.

[0069] In the main control circuit 60, a CPU 66, ROM 68, RAM 70, hard disk device 74, communications interface circuit 76 and random number generator 78 are connected via the input/output bus 64, and an input interface circuit group 62 and an output interface circuit group 72 connected to the input/output bus 64 are also provided.

[0070] The CPU 66 controls the various sections of the game selection-enabled gaming machine 2, and controls the progress of the game, in accordance with a program stored in the ROM 68, a program stored in the hard disk device 74 or RAM 70 (hereinafter, called a "game program"), or the like.

[0071] The ROM 68 stores programs of various types executed by the CPU 66, fixed data, and the like. The ROM 68 also stores, for example, a game selection program 68a whereby the player selects the type of game to be executed by the game selection-enabled gaming machine 2.

[0072] The RAM 70 is used as a working memory when the CPU 66 is carrying out processing. Furthermore, in the case of this first embodiment, while a game is in progress, all or a portion of the game program downloaded from the game providing server 1 is stored in the RAM 70, according to requirements, as described hereinafter, and the program is supplied from the RAM 70 for execution by the CPU 66.

[0073] The ROM 68 or RAM 70 may of course be substituted by storage devices of other types, such as semiconductor memories.

[0074] The hard disk device 74 is provided as a large-capacity storage device. Therefore, it may also be substituted with another storage device, such as an optical disk device. The hard disk device 74 stores, for example, a game program of the type selected by the player, which has been downloaded from the game providing server 1 (any of the games G1-G10 described above). Here, a downloaded game program may be executed by the CPU 66 from its storage location on the hard disk device 74, but it is also possible to copy the downloaded program, completely, or part by part, into the RAM 70, thereby supplying the program for processing by the CPU 66.

[0075] The hard disk device 74 also stores management information, such as a journal, for example, according to requirements.

[0076] The communications interface circuit 76 has an interface function for communicating with the game providing server 1 via the network N. Unique ID numbers are assigned to the game providing server 1 and the respective game selection-enabled gaming machines 2, and hence the communications source and destination can be identified universally by means of these ID numbers, and the communications interface circuit 76 can determine whether or not a communication is directed to the machine in which it is installed. The same applies to the communications interface circuit 22 installed in the game providing server 1.

[0077] The random number generator 78 generates random numbers under the control of the CPU 66. The CPU 66 generates a random number at the timing that a determination is required concerning how to progress when the path of the selected game branches, and it also generates a random number when determining the game result of the currently selected game type.

[0078] The input interface circuit group 62 reads in instruction signals from the various switches 40, 42, 48 described above.

[0079] Furthermore, an input detection sensor 58 which detects the insertion of a coin, bill, or the like (depicted as one block in FIG. 4, although in fact separate sensors are